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## NEWS BRIEFS

### 147 arrested in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Sept 1 :  
 Police rounded up 147 per-  
 sons on various charges from  
 12 districts of Chittagong  
 range today under their  
 Operation Doorbar-91. Two  
 pipe guns were also recovered,  
 reports BSS.

### Yeltsin to control currency

MOSCOW, Sept 1: Russian  
 Federation President Boris N  
 Yeltsin has claimed veto power  
 over ministries and banks in-  
 volving foreign currency, pre-  
 cious stones and metals.  
 Yeltsin barred the Soviet  
 Finance Ministry, State Bank  
 and Bank for Foreign  
 Economic Relations from  
 making such transactions  
 without approval from the cor-  
 responding Russian agencies,  
 Interfax said, reports AP.

### Raisa recovers from shock

MOSCOW, Sept 1: Raisa  
 Gorbachev has recovered from  
 the shock of the coup d'etat  
 and is in good health, her hus-  
 band Soviet President Mikhail  
 Gorbachev said today.  
 "Everything is fine" with his  
 wife, Gorbachev said twice in  
 an interview with US-based  
 CNN and Soviet television, re-  
 ports AFP.

### Owen retires from politics

LONDON, Sept 1: David  
 Owen, the former British  
 Foreign Secretary and former  
 leader of the defunct Social  
 Democratic Party (SDP), is re-  
 tiring from politics and will  
 not stand in the next General  
 Elections, the Sunday Times  
 reported, reports AFP.  
 Owen, 53, told the paper he  
 did not have any plans for the  
 future, but the Times said he  
 could be named as the next  
 governor of Hong Kong.

### EC official in Croatia

BELOGRADE, Sept 1: A se-  
 nior European Community of-  
 ficial arrived Sunday amid scat-  
 tered fighting in the Croatian  
 countryside to try and cement  
 an EC plan meant to end the  
 bloody inter-ethnic conflict,  
 reports AP.



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a mammoth gathering at Manik Mia Avenue on Sunday to mark the 13th founding anniversary of the party. — Star photo.

### Commemorative stamps on martyrs of movement : Khaleda

## Politics of intrigue against democracy to be eliminated

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has warned against politics of intrigue to disrupt the democratic process saying that the people would eliminate the conspirators from the soil of Bangladesh.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting on Sunday at the Manik Mia Avenue in observance of the 13th founding anniversary of the BNP,

Khaleda Zia said that the conspirators, already weakened by last parliamentary election would not be able to stage a comeback to power in future.

Khaleda Zia announced that the people had reposed their confidence in the BNP through franchise to lead the nation towards prosperity and accordingly her government had already fulfilled many of the pledges it made before the election.

Expressing her determination to continue the democratic process Begum Zia said, "We are not afraid of anybody... we believe in power of the people."

Khaleda Zia said that the government had already taken decision to introduce three commemorative stamps on the martyrs of the anti-autocratic movement so that the people would always remember their sacrifice.

The three stamps would carry the images of Noor Hossain, Jagu and Zehad killed on November 10, 1987 at the height of anti-Ershad movement and October 10, 1989 respectively, said the Prime Minister.

She said that it was not possible to compensate the families of those who laid down their lives for the sake of democracy, but the govern-

See Page 12 Col. 3

## BNP, AL beefing up their organisational strength

By Moynuddin Naser

A new polarisation centering the two major political parties — the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League is in the offing, according to well informed sources.

The polarisation owes its dimension to the new parliamentary system of government, the process of which will be completed with the holding of a referendum on this issue and the election of a titular President.

According to BNP sources the party has taken up a programme to strengthen the organisation at the grassroot

level for which it has laid emphasis on the induction of political forces in different organisation tiers.

The BNP has already started holding upazila-level party conferences while the Awami League completed the conferences of maximum of its upazila units last year.

Meanwhile, an independent MP Redwanul Haque has already joined the BNP while two other independent MPs Major (Retd) Hafiz and Nurul Islam Moni are also being wooed into joining the BNP.

Besides, workers of differ-

ent political parties including many from the Awami League have also joined the BNP. In the course of this process a large number of former AL workers, from its stronghold in Tangail have already joined the BNP.

According to a BNP source, JSD leader Shahjahan Straj MP who got tacit support from the BNP during his election from Tangail has started lobbying with the BNP towards a unity.

Shahjahan Straj who supported late president Ziaur Rahman during his presiden-

See Page 12 Col. 1

### BNP function in Mymensingh attacked, seven injured

MYMENSINGH, Sept 1 :  
 Seven people, including two activists of the Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, were injured in an armed attack on BNP founding anniversary function in the town hall here this evening, reports UNB.

In retaliation, the ruling BNP supporters allegedly set fire to the district Awami League office.

Witnesses said pro-Awami League Chhatra League (A-A) activists suddenly attacked the function firing several gun shots and exploding cocktails.

Juba Dal leaders Giasuddin

See Page 12 Col. 2

### BAU students forced to vacate nine halls

MYMENSINGH, Sept 1: Authorities today forced students to vacate nine residential halls of Bangladesh Agriculture University as tension gripped the area following Saturday's campus shutdown, reports UNB.

The decision to vacate halls was taken this morning in an emergency meeting with the deans and provosts with Vice-Chancellor Prof M Asadur Rahman presiding.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists staged demonstration last night in front of VC's house protesting the closure of the varsity up to September 18. Other student groups also lodged protest.

Students were asked at 12 noon today by loudspeaker to leave their dormitories by 3 pm.

### US recognition likely today : Major in Moscow

## Gorbachev ready to accept Baltics independence

MOSCOW, Sept 1 : Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today he was ready to accept independence for the three Baltic republics, reports Reuter.

"In this connection, if this is the ultimate will and the intention of the peoples of these republics, I believe we have to agree to this," he said in an interview with Soviet television and the US CNN network.

Gorbachev said he had no immediate plans to resign from his post. "I will not resign now. It would be amoral to do so at this difficult stage... I will not allow myself as a person or as a citizen to resign," he said.

Gorbachev, toppled from

power for three days last month in an attempted coup by communist hard-liners, was speaking before a crucial meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's highest legislature, scheduled to begin on Monday.

The President, who met leading officials of 11 republics today in an effort to map out the shape of a future Soviet Union, said his alliance with his longtime rival, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, was unbreakable.

"I think that if some people hope to drive a wedge between us, between Gorbachev and Yeltsin, and try to drive them apart — and there will be such attempts — I think having had

this bitter experience, we will not allow ourselves to be provoked. This is out of the question."

Earlier, President George Bush strongly hinted on Saturday that he would extend formal diplomatic recognition on Monday to the breakaway Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Bush told reporters he had spoken to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis by telephone "and I told him... we would probably have something to say on Monday that would be of great interest to the people there."

Britain's Prime Minister John Major arrived in Moscow

See Page 12 Col. 7

### China to persist 'in walking socialist road'

HONG KONG, Sept 1 :  
 Despite the collapse of the Soviet Communist Party, China will persist in 'walking the socialist road', China's hard-line Prime Minister Li Peng said in a television interview Sunday.

### Hasina addresses two public meetings today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will address two public meetings today (Monday) at Gulshan-Cantonment and Dhanmondi-Muhammadpur constituencies where her party candidates Alhaj Mokbul Hussain and Advocate Shahara Khatun are contesting the September 11 bye-elections.

She will address a public meeting at 3 pm at Uttarkhan High School ground which will be followed by another meeting at Hajaribagh at 4 pm.

Sheikh Hasina will leave for Bhola tonight to launch a two-day campaign for AL candidates there. She will address public meetings at Borhanuddin upazila on September 3 and at Daulatkhan upazila on the following day.

Sheikh Hasina will return Dhaka to address the public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue on September 6. On September 7, the AL chief will address meetings in Chittagong-8 constituency.

### One killed in bomb blasts

## Strike in Sind against stranded Pakistanis

KARACHI (Pakistan), Sept 1 :  
 One man was killed today as four bombs went off in southern Pakistan during a strike by native Sindhis against the repatriation of Pakistanis from Bangladesh, reports Reuter.

Police said all four blasts happened in the volatile city of Hyderabad but could not confirm the casualty figures of one dead and 18 wounded given by the militant Jiye Sind Mahaz Group.

A government doctor said one man died and three were wounded in the explosions, one of them outside the Hyderabad Press Club.

The Jiye Sind, which cam-

paigns for Sindhi rights in Sind province, called the one-day strike to protest at government plans to repatriate 2,50,000 people from Bangladesh.

The government, under pressure from the Mohajir National Movement (MQM), that represents urdu speaking migrants, plans to settle the refugees in northern Pakistan but Sindhis fear they would move south and upset the ethnic balance.

In the past five years hundreds of people have been killed in ethnic strife between migrants and Sindhis.

### Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum opens today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurates the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum at a local hotel today (Monday), reports UNB.

The meeting has been organised jointly by the Bangladesh-Japan Society and the visiting Economic Mission of the Japanese government.

A 47-member Japanese team consisting mostly of Tokyo's business personalities arrived in Dhaka Friday for promotion of business in Bangladesh.

### 'Osmani worked for parliamentary democracy'

By Staff Correspondent

Rich tributes were paid to Bangabir General MAG Osmani Sunday on his seventy third birth anniversary. Fatcha was offered and wreaths were placed at the mazar of Osmani in Sylhet. Different socio-political organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Bangabir Osmani Smriti Parishad organised a seminar "Parliamentary democracy and Osmani" at the Shishu

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### He's becoming President after September 16!

By Staff Correspondent

Saifur Rahman, heading his own Islamic Socialist Party and facing possible dismissal as Chairman of Sylhet Sadar Upazila Parishad on corruption charges, says he is becoming President of Bangladesh after September 16.

Rahman, accused of embezzlement of fund and often coming to his office tipsy — a few among many charges — lodged by 17 Union Parishad Chairmen in his area said "These corrupt people were jealous of my popularity."

Saying the file was ready for his dismissal, he vowed to lodge a case against Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed for the action and

See Page 12 Col. 6

## Spacious venue for trial of Ershad, associates sought

By Staff Correspondent

The government is yet to find a suitable place to hold the trial of Ershad and his associates for the other cases including gold smuggling, the ATP purchase, issue and Janata Tower complex.

The present trial of deposed President Ershad for amassing wealth from beyond known sources is going on in a very congested place, the Old Jail Warden Barracks. But the place is not at all adequate for holding hearings of the other cases where the number of accused persons is higher.

Meanwhile one suggestion

has been made to the government to vacate a house at Minto Road to hold the trials of Ershad, Raushan Ershad and their associates.

The Home Ministry and the Law Ministry on Saturday met on this issue but failed to reach any decision. The meeting was also attended by the Attorney General Aminul Haque.

Meanwhile the CID investigation team has issued chargesheets against Ershad and his wife for their alleged involvement in gold smuggling, the trial of which is continuing in

See Page 12 Col. 7

## Coastal embankments repaired, better harvest expected

From Mostafa Kamal Majumder

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 1 :  
 Nurul Alam Kutubi (32), a farmer of village Baragoph was strolling on a section of the repaired coastal embankment in the offshore island of Kutubdia keeping a watchful eye on both the sides. On the seafloor waters have risen at five feet above the fields protected by the embankment.

Inside are the luxuriant paddy plants of high yielding varieties of aman. The same fields were littered with corpses, carcasses and debris

following the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge four months ago.

Most of the 50-kilometre embankment washed away by the tidal surge has been repaired, said Nurul Alam. He was confident about the prospect of a good aman harvest if the embankment holds against the dangerous 'chora joe' (sudden spring tide) of September.

As large roaring waves of the Bay of Bengal were crashing on the embankment pro-

tected with boulders and gunny bags, Nurul Alam said their paddy fields would have been subject to the ebb and flow of tide if the embankment was not there.

The cyclone and tidal surge of April 29 had exposed all agricultural land and all fresh water tanks to saline water. The people of the island needed not only emergency relief to feed themselves but also repair of the embankment to resume agricultural production.

Thanks to a Food for Work emergency rehabilitation programme launched at the instance of the World Food Programme (WFP) that one lakh islanders of Kutubdia, battered by the century's worst cyclone, now have a hope. Earthwork is impossible in the area during the rainy season when most of the land remain submerged in high tide, and rains easily erode unsettled soil. The coastal people have done the impossible.

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## Reliance Wishes Japan-Bangladesh Economic Forum A Grand Success



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